

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 275
By Winningham

A RESOLUTION to honor and applaud Coach Jim Brown and the Jackson County High School Girls Basketball Team on winning the 2003 TSSAA Class AA State Basketball Championship.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful high school teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson County High School girls basketball program is renowned for its perennial nature as a bastion of extraordinary athletic facility and its competitive stature in the world of high school sports; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson County High School Lady Blue Devils achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2002-2003 season, compiling a record of 29-7 and winning the 2003 TSSAA Class AA Girls State Basketball Championship; and

WHEREAS, the District 7-AA Regular Season Co-Champions, the Lady Blue Devils won the District Tournament with decisive wins over Dekalb County, Smith County and Livingston Academy; and

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WHEREAS, toppling imposing teams from Hume-Fogg, York Institute and Livingston Academy, the Jackson County basketball phenoms were also crowned Region 4-AA Tournament Champions; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Blue Devils advanced to the State Tournament with a Sectional victory over Walker Valley; and

WHEREAS, facing formidable opponents such as Knoxville Austin East, Chester County and Martin Westview, the young women from Jackson County exhibited their exceptional skill and finesse in the State Tournament, flawlessly advancing through the bracket and securing State Champion honors; and

WHEREAS, Jackson County High School is the first school in Class AA, and only the third school in any class, to ever win four consecutive state championships; and

WHEREAS, the 2002-2003 senior career win/loss record is an astounding 116-28, and each of these seniors has played on four, state championship teams; and

WHEREAS, while supporting the team's vision, several players were awarded accolades for their individual performances, including: Courtney Childress, All District Tournament and All State Tournament, Alyssa Bowman, District Tournament MVP, All Region Tournament and All State Tournament, Deanna Apple, All District Tournament, All Region Tournament and All State Tournament and Marissa Hensley, All District Tournament, Region Tournament MVP and State Tournament MVP; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson County High School basketball team includes seniors Deanna Apple, Alyssa Bowman, Ashley Hopkins and Jennifer Harris; juniors Courtney Childress, Sheena Hager, Marissa Hensley, Amanda Naff, Kayla Olson, Candace Stafford; and freshmen Kristi Apple, Christina Hardin, Adrianne Hopkins, Lacy Lindberg and Cassie Olson; Trainer Shawn Moffitt and Managers Amber Flatt, Andrea McMillan, Whitney Myers, Lacy Ragland and Miles Stewart, each of whom contributed significantly to the team's success; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach Jim Brown and Assistant Coaches Kelly Coe and Barbara Brown have devoted many remarkable years to the cultivation of the basketball program at Jackson County High School and laid the groundwork for four consecutive state championships by sharing with the young women on the team their substantial knowledge of basketball, their many years of coaching and athletic experience and their passion both for the sport of basketball and for excellence in every endeavor; and

WHEREAS, Coach Brown is only the second coach in Tennessee history to win four consecutive state championships in girls basketball; and

WHEREAS, the basketball players at Jackson County High School epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved a premier level of success in athletic competition while showing the highest degree of character both on and off the court; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Blue Devils have inspired the student body and united all of Jackson County in completing their triumphal championship run through the 2002-2003 season; and

WHEREAS, the perseverance, determination, work ethic and talent of this group of young women not only made possible a championship basketball season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future enterprise; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the Jackson County Lady Blue Devils for winning the 2003 TSSAA Class AA Girls State Basketball Championship and for serving as examples of the exceptional quality of the youth of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we do hereby honor and congratulate Coach Jim Brown and the Jackson County High School Lady Blue Devils on their formidable legacy, their individual and collective resolve and their extraordinary 4th consecutive championship season.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.